Vocational schools in Gujarat

*595. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government vocational schools at plus two level which are functioning in the State of Gujarat as on date;

(b) the grants released by Government to these schools during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to increase the number of vocational schools in the state ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Five Government Vocational Schools as well as eighty seven Government aided schools are functioning in the State of Gujarat as on date.

(b) Government of India releases grants to state Governments on receipt of proposals from the State Governments as per the guidelines of the scheme of vocationalisation of education and does not release any grant to Vocational Schools directly. During the preceding three years the following grants-in-aid has been released to the Government of Gujarat.

S.No.	Year	Amount (Lakhs of Rupees)
1.	2000-01	Nil
2.	2001-02	1902.72
3.	2002-03	467.58
	TOTAL	2370.30

(c) Government of India have been requesting the State Governments from time to time emphasizing the need for strengthening and effective implementation of the scheme. Letters have been issued on 16-04-2002 and 7-10-2002 requesting all the State Governments including the State of Gujarat for early submission of proposals for expansion of the scheme of vocationalisation of education. The issue of vocationalisation of education was also discussed in the meeting of all the State Education Secretaries held on 12-8-2002. In the meeting need for greater focus on vocational education and introduction of job oriented innovative courses was emphasized.